



The Arlington Advocate

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COMPANY

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Firefighters on the ground and in the air battle a fire at a Bartlett Avenue home Friday morning. The three-alarm fire caused an estimated \$350,000 of damage to the house.

Fire destroys Bartlett Avenue home

Neighbors and friends are raising funds to help owner and her injured pets

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

A Bartlett Avenue resident with strong ties to the community watched as her home was destroyed on Friday by a fire that gutted the inside of the house and burned through much of the roof.

Jean Potter, 63, the director of the Arlington Heights Nursery School and former president of Arlington's League of Women Voters, was having coffee with other child-care workers at a house in Arlington when she received the call at about 11 a.m. that her house

was burning.

Russell Bollinger, 58, a boarder at the large two-story house, also was not home during the fire, having left for work at 6 a.m. Two pets — a dog and a cat — were trapped in the house, however.

When Potter arrived at the scene with her friends, she was told by Fire Deputy Chief Richard Maimone that firefighters had not seen either of her pets when they searched the house for people.

Shortly after Maimone briefed Potter, a second-floor ceiling collapsed and Maimone ordered the sounding of the air horn, signaling all firefighters to evacuate. Firefighters continued to fight the fire from the outside, staying clear of the front of the house in case the chimney collapsed.

Officials expected to find the pets' carcasses, but a firefighter saw the cat jump out a second-story window when the ceiling collapsed. The cat was taken to a veterinarian. Hours later, when most of the fire was out, the dog was found on the first floor by a firefighter who was shocked to see it move when he reached down and touched it.

FIRE, see page 6A.

Doyle sentenced to probation in bank fraud case

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

John Doyle, a former board member of the Arlington Housing Authority and once a prominent lawyer in town, was sentenced to two years of probation by a federal judge on Thursday for bank fraud.

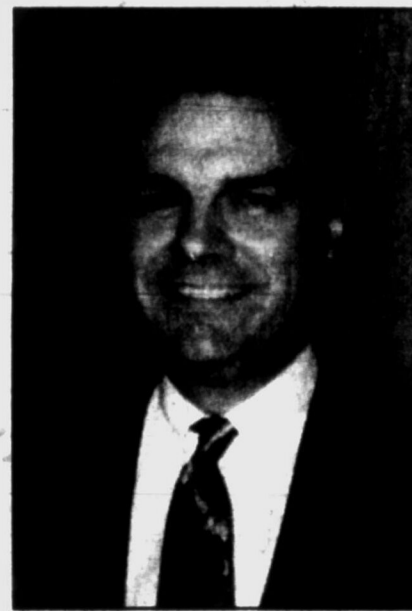
Doyle, who pleaded guilty to charges of bank fraud in June, was also sentenced to 250 hours of community service and \$4,800 restitution to Resolution Trust Corporation.

Doyle is one of four people, including former administrator to the Arlington Board of Selectmen Frederick Pitcher, who have been convicted of forging mortgage documents for the purchase of units at the Old Colony condominium complex, which became one of Arlington's largest real estate failures.

In June Doyle was charged with conspiracy to obtain \$1.35 million in fraudulent loans from the now-defunct ComFed Savings Bank. Doyle waived his rights to be indicted by a federal grand jury and pled guilty to the charge.

The Bellevue Road resident was once very active and well respected in the town and the judge and lawyers who spoke about his crime in court on Thursday painted a picture of a classic fall from grace.

Before hearing from the prosecution and defense, Judge Richard Stearns noted that Doyle had no prior record and several people had written letters on his behalf



John F. Doyle

ADVOCATE FILE PHOTO

The letters were not made public but he said some of them were from an Arlington High School English teacher, Arlington Housing Authority board member and former state representative John Cusack and Congressman Joseph Kennedy. Stearns said he also received a letter from Doyle's wife which was a "very moving testament to his character."

Paul Andrews, trial attorney for the criminal division of the US Department of Justice, argued that Doyle should be sentenced to six months of house arrest. He noted

DOYLE, see page 4A.

Frank Hurd Sr. dies

Played prominent role in local government

Franklin W. Hurd Sr., a cornerstone of Arlington government and athletics throughout his life, died Dec. 27 at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington. He was 86.

Born in Arlington in 1910, the seventh of 10 children, Hurd gained townwide recognition while serving on the Board of Selectmen from 1953-59.

While serving as selectman, he was elected president of the Middlesex County Selectman's Association. This organization represented the towns of the largest county in the Commonwealth, and hosted some of the most prominent public officials of that time, including President John F. Kennedy. Hurd was awarded a life membership to the organization

and occasionally attended meetings right up to his death.

His sons, Frank Jr. and Edward J. Hurd, have both been Selectmen, Frank Jr. here in Arlington and Edward in Billerica.

"He was extremely proud of not only being a Selectman himself, but of having both sons as Selectmen and all three of us as chairmen," said Frank Hurd Jr., currently the head of the Arlington Housing Authority.

Thomas Rawson, who is now the earliest-serving Arlington Selectmen surviving, recalled the days he served on the board with Hurd Sr.

"He was a great fellow, very competent," Rawson said. "The town

HURD, see page 7A.

Bomb scare at Arlington Center bank

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

Concord Cooperative Bank in Arlington Center was evacuated Tuesday night and the Boston Bomb Squad was called in when a beeping package raised suspicions.

The package turned out to be a digital clock — a gift for the bank manager.

At about 3:45 p.m., the bank's manager, Richard Pochini, an Arlington resident, called the fire department after he placed the shoebox-size package behind the bank at 699 Massachusetts Ave., just across the street from Town Hall.

Police Chief Eugene Del Gaizo said Pochini was not overreacting by calling the police. He said the bank manager had several reasons to be suspicious. He was not expecting a package and the delivery man who dropped it off said he did not need a receipt. After he heard a steady beeping sound, he put it out back and called the police.

"He made the right decision to call us to investigate. It's better to be safe than to later on have a mishap," Del Gaizo said.

The surrounding businesses were evacuated and police tapped BOMB, see page 5A.

Year's 1st newborn

Local couple has first baby in Boston

By Tom Rose
ADVOCATE STAFF

Sometime during Sunday's 11th hour in a delivery room at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, the conversation turned to the estimated time of arrival for the newborn.

"The nurses were watching the clock," Matthew Richter of Arlington recalled Tuesday morning. "They did some speculating."

The guessing game stopped nine minutes into New Year's Day. That's when Sophia Ruth Richter, the first-born child of Matthew and Elizabeth "Lisa" Richter of Arlington Heights, made her worldly entrance. She weighed in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

Within 24 hours of her birth, the newborn had received as much media attention as most people get in a lifetime. Her picture ran in both Boston daily newspapers, as well as on all the local television newscasts.

"The news crews were all here at the same time, and then we had the Globe and Herald come by too," Matthew Richter said from their hospital room. "Everyone was delighted to be here, rather than covering one of the tragedies we see on the news every night."

The Richters did not know until after breakfast on New Year's Day that Sophia had captured the Boston-area title as the new year's first baby. She beat out a boy born at Boston's Brigham's and Women's Hospital by a mere 60 seconds.

"It's been a very busy morning," Richter said. "There's a lot to do anyway — endless care."

Mother and daughter were doing fine Tuesday, although Sophia did not seem to be interested in feeding.

"We have a very sleepy little girl who is not feeding to everyone's satisfaction," Matthew Richter said. "We were supposed to go home (Tuesday) morning, but we're going to delay that for now."

The baby's name has an interesting story behind it. Several months ago, Lisa dreamed that she had had a baby girl whose name was Sophia. Her middle name, Ruth, is the middle name of her maternal grandmother.

"And her last name has been in my family as long as I can remember," joked Matthew Richter.

The Richters have lived in Arlington four years. He is a professional mover who plays drums

BABY, please see 4A.



Elizabeth Davis Richter and her husband, Matthew Richter, show off their newborn, Sophia Ruth Richter, at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston Tuesday.

ADVOCATE PHOTO BY TODD MAGLIOZZI

RECYCLING ROUTE NEXT WEEK

NEWS/OPINION

■ **NEW YEAR:** Arlington youth celebrated the new year two days early with a full slate of Arlington Celebrates '96 activities. For pictures, please turn to page 12A.

■ **RESQ:** Mimi Rabson, an Arlington resident and founding member of the ensemble the "Really Eclectic String Quartet," talks about her music and the group. See page 6B.

SPORTS

■ **GAMES SLATED:** Holiday basketball and hockey tournaments are over, and the winter sports teams at Minuteman Tech, Arlington High and Arlington Catholic swing back into regular season action this week.

The Arlington Catholic boys' and girls' hoop teams have home games in the next week.

The Arlington High and Arlington Catholic hockey teams are at home, while the Arlington High girls' gymnastics team opens the season on January 4 at home.

The Arlington High boys' basketball team will be on the road, while the girls' team will be at home this week.

Additional information about these and other sports events are in the B-Section of this week's Arlington Advocate.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

TOWN HALL ROUNDUP

Vision 2020's report

Arlington's approximately 19,400 households will soon receive a mailing from the town requesting updated census data. Also enclosed in this mailing is the "Vision 2020 Report to the Community."

This year's report presents accounts from all Vision 2020's Task Groups and outlines those projects

which will focus their energies in 1996. Arlingtonians are encouraged to participate in the Task Groups and to contribute their skills and suggestions in furthering the town's goals and planning efforts.

Of particular value to Vision 2020 this year is the Questionnaire on School Renovations which accompanies a Progress Report on the School Renovation Program. Responses to the questions will be tabulated and reveal what kinds of information people need to be well informed about the School Renovation Program as well as their sense of the program in general.

For five years Vision 2020 has used the vehicle of an insert to the census to ask the community's opinions on issues important to the town. Previous topics have included town issues and goals, services provided by town government, and the condition of our parks and playgrounds. The results of these surveys have helped

Vision 2020 and town leaders determine how to address these issues.

Census mailing recipients are encouraged to return their census data promptly to the town in the envelope provided. Responses to the Vision 2020 Questionnaire and Task Group Form (pages 3 through 6 of the report) may also be returned in the same envelope, or mailed separately to Vision 2020. For more information call the Arlington Planning Department at 646-1000, or Jane Howard at 648-1936.

Thrope is first to file election papers

The new year's election race moved into gear Tuesday morning when School Committee member Marty Thrope became the first candidate to file election at the Town Clerk's office.

The Town Election is scheduled for March 30.



ADVOCATE PHOTO BY GAIL OSKIN

Two teen-age brothers from Arlington were injured on Dec. 27 when their car hit a tree and landed on its roof. David Spero, 17, and Nathan Spero, 14, were taken to the Medical Center at Symmes where they were treated and released. State trooper Thomas Downs said the cause of the accident is unknown, but David Spero was not charged with any traffic violations. The accident occurred at 10:45 a.m. on Mystic Valley Parkway near Decatur Street.

Meetings

Thursday, Jan. 4

Conservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

Friday, Jan. 5

Thompson School Council, 3 to 5 p.m., Thompson School library, 60 North Union St.

Monday, Jan. 8

Board of Assessors, 7:30 p.m., Board of Assessors Office, first floor, Town Hall

Monday, Jan. 8

Arlington Recycling Committee, 7:30 p.m., second floor meeting room, Town Hall Annex

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Ottoson Middle School Council, 4:30

p.m., upstairs conference room, Ottoson Middle School, 63 Acton St.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Park and Recreation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Senior Center, 27 Maple St.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Arlington Historical Commissions, 7:30 p.m., John Jarvis House, 50 Pleasant St.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

School Committee, 7:30 p.m., School Committee room, sixth level, Arlington High School, 865 Massachusetts Ave.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Park and Recreation Facilities Improvement Task Force, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex

Thursday, Jan. 11

Pierce School Council, 3 p.m., Pierce School library, 85 Park Ave. Extension

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

ARLINGTON
5 Grandview Rd. \$168,000, 12/12/95, Lynne M Dicristina To Stephanie Shore.
40 Irving St. \$465,000, 12/08/95, Roy K Publicover To Douglas N Perlo.
235 Renfrew St. \$198,500, 12/11/95, Menkello Rlty Tr To Lynne R Quinlan.
35 Udine St. \$178,000, 12/08/95, Kinuthia Nacharia To Dorothy E Hatzikostant.

BELMONT
79 Brookside Ave. \$270,000, 12/12/95, Nancy Tutunjan To Steven K Feske.

LEXINGTON
38 Cedar St. \$197,000, 12/13/95, Annu Shionoya To Jeffrey M Denzak.

Historical survey gets a revision

By Raymond Lum
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

The Arlington Historical Commission has published a revised second edition of "Northwest Arlington Massachusetts, An Architectural and Historical Survey." This second edition corrects many of the errors found in the original edition of 1980 and is printed with clearer photographs of many of the houses and other historic structures that are surveyed in the publication. Additional maps supplement the information contained in the original edition. The revision was prepared by Beth Cohen, one of the seven commission-

ers, with much of the verification carried out by the commission's associate member Patricia C. Fitzmaurice, founder and managing trustee of the Old Schwamb Mill, and John Worden, president of the Arlington Preservation Fund Inc. Raymond Lum, co-chair of the commission, edited the final revisions and contributed a preface to the revised edition.

Before year's end, copies of the "Survey" will be available for reading at the Robbins and Fox Libraries, and for purchase at the Arlington Visitors Center, the Arlington Historical Society, Royal Bookstore, the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, and at the Concord Historical Society's museum.

The survey is one of the three architectural and historical surveys published by the commission. The others, also available for sale and at the libraries, are "Mill Brook Valley" (1976) and "Ice, Crops, and Commuters: South and East Ar-

lington's Historical and Architectural Heritage" (1981). All of the structures covered in the three surveys are on the commission's "Inventory of Architecturally and/or Historically Significant Properties," which was published earlier this year, and many of them are also on the National Register of Historic Places and on the State Register maintained by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The Arlington Historical Commission, a volunteer group of seven commissioners appointed by the town manager, and a larger number of associate members appointed by the co-chairs of the commission, work to preserve the architectural and historical fabric of the town. One of the commission's current projects is an expansion of its "Inventory", in cooperation with the Historic Districts Commission, to include significant structures that it has deemed worthy of preservation. The commission's co-chairs, Robert Botterio and Raymond Lum, can be contacted c/o town hall.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE LOG



ARRESTS

■ On Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m., an officer on routine patrol saw a man trying to get his car off the traffic island at Summer and Banks streets. The officer talked to the man and determined that he probably had been drinking. The 25-year-old Arlington man was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

■ On Dec. 26 at 11 p.m., police went to Lorne Road for a report of a family fight. A 41-year-old woman

said her husband, 43, was drinking and got into an argument with their 19-year-old son. She said he hit their son in the face and then hit her when she tried to intervene. The man was arrested for assault and battery.

■ On Dec. 27 at 7:20 p.m., a sergeant on patrol saw a car run a stop sign and then speed off without its lights on. He pulled the car over on Massachusetts Avenue and arrested the driver, a 45-year-old Arlington woman, for driving under the influence of alcohol and violating a stop sign.

■ On Dec. 28 at 12:09 p.m., a woman walked into the police station on Mystic Street and turned in her

son who had a warrant out for his arrest. The 16-year-old Medford boy had a warrant for breaking

and entering at night and receiving stolen property.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

■ On Dec. 28 at 4:45 p.m., police were called to Massachusetts Avenue for a report of a fight in the street. A 35-year-old woman said her husband assaulted her when he came to pick up their children. She said he pushed her into a snow bank and hit her in the face. The 38-year-old man from Franklin left the scene and an emergency restraining order was issued. Franklin police were notified.

■ On Dec. 30 at 7:04 p.m., an officer on patrol was approached and

told that two men were arguing on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Lake Street. The officer went to the street corner and approached the two men just as a 33-year-old Medford man pushed a 43-year-old Malden man into a store window. The officer separated the two men, who were arguing over a parking space. Neither one of them wanted to press charges.

BREAKING AND ENTERING

■ On Dec. 26 at 4 p.m., the principal of Peirce School on Park Avenue Extension called to report that the school had been broken

into. He said the alarm was sounding when he entered the building and a television, VCR and copy machine were smashed and thrown into the hallway.

■ On Dec. 28 at 7:20 p.m., an Allen Street resident called to report that her home had been broken into. She said she discovered she was robbed when she went to put her purse on the kitchen table and it wasn't there. Also missing was the washer and dryer, gas grill, a rug, tools and four bottles of wine.

The lock on the front door was changed. Police suspect the thief may have been the woman's former boyfriend. Her restraining order against him expired on Dec. 27.

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FIRE REPORT



RESPONSES

Rescue and Fire services responded to 72 calls last week, including 39 rescues, 12 investigations and eight fire alarms.

■ On Dec. 25 at 6:22 a.m., a 40-year-old man on Rawson Road was reported to be vomiting blood. He was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 25 at 6:39 a.m., a 59-year-old man on Madison Avenue was reported to be suffering from chest pains. He was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 25 at 8:20 a.m., a 73-year-old woman on Windsor Street was reported to be suffering from dizziness. She was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 26 at 9:01, an 85-year-old woman was reported to be suffering from general weakness. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 27 at 12:24 a.m., an 83-year-old man on Melrose Street was reported to be suffering from shortness of breath. He was taken to Mount Auburn Hospital.

■ On Dec. 27 at 10:17 a.m., an 80-year-old woman was reported to be bleeding from her arm on Summer Street. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 28 at 3:40 p.m., an 11-year-old girl was reported to have been injured in a sledding accident on the Thompson School playground. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 28 at 3:06 p.m., a woman was reported to be performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a 43-year-old man. The man was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 28 at 10:21 p.m., a 72-year-old woman on Winslow Street was reported to be having difficulty

breathing. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 28 at 3:40 p.m., an eight-year-old boy was reported to have struck his head on a metal pole on the Thompson School playground. He was placed in a cervical collar and taken to Winchester Hospital.

■ On Dec. 29 at 10:58 p.m., a 50-year-old woman was reported to be having a reaction to medication on Trowbridge Street. She was treated by Armstrong Ambulance.

■ On Dec. 30 at 4:26 a.m., a 90-year-old woman fell and injured her wrist on Drake Road. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

NEWS NOTES

Funeral funds needed for Lowell family

The Stratton School Parent Teacher Organization has set up a memorial fund to help pay for the funeral of a seven-year-old special needs student who died on Dec. 18.

Francisco Santiago, known as "Franco" at the Behavioral Intervention Program at Stratton School, was pulled out of the Spicket River after an intensive search in Lawrence. Police were searching for the boy who wandered out into the cold when his babysitter was in the shower. He could not speak and had a mental capacity of a two year old.

For the last two and half years Santiago was bused to Stratton to participate in the BIP program.

Staff members at Stratton were reportedly shattered by the loss, and Laura Munsey, one of the vice presidents of the school's PTO, moved to form a fund for the funeral expenses.

"The whole school was just really devastated by the loss of our student," she said. She said that as the mother of three children she could understand the grief a parent must feel when the child dies.

Munsey said she heard the family did not have enough money for the funeral and a school official approached the boy's mother to ask her if she'd accept a fund to pay for the expenses. Munsey said \$460 has been raised so far.

"People at the school wanted to help the family and we thought that was the best way to do that," she said.

Stratton School principal Bernie Walsh said the fund is a show of the elementary school's sense of community.

"I think it goes back to what we felt its a community the Stratton School community," Walsh said adding that the school's community is characterized by reaching out to needy people.

Donations may be sent to Francisco Santiago Memorial Fund, c/o The Bank of Boston, 635 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington Mass. 02174.

Year's 1st newborn

BABY, from page 1A.

With the Nu Root Ensemble in his spare time. She is the manager of Sony's movie theater in Harvard Square. She plans to return to work after finishing her maternity leave, her husband said.

The 20-hour labor and commotion following the birth left both parents tired, however Richter said he is glad they agreed to talk with the media.

"It will be nice for her when she grows up to look back on," Richter said.

Bridal Directory

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Doyle sentenced to probation

DOYLE, from page 1A.

that Doyle "does occupy some position in the community" and a sentence of house arrest would send a stronger message than just two years of probation.

Stearns noted that Doyle, once an attorney based in Arlington center, had already suffered significantly by being permanently disbarred.

"It's not quite like losing a license to fish or hunt. It's losing a livelihood," Stearns said. "Rather than have him locked up, why not have him out doing something productive?"

Andrews said the community service that Stearns referred to would be perceived as only a "slap on the wrist" and that house arrest was in order because not everyone in the community understands the seriousness of being disbarred.

Doyle's attorney, William York, said that his client's loss of his license to practice law was indeed a severe blow and that he had already suffered a great deal. York said the admitted forging of bank documents did significant damage to Doyle's reputation, finances and family life.

"As a result of that action his life was essentially destroyed ... His family has been tremendously embarrassed by this," York said. "He

has suffered enough. In 1994 he got into a depressive state (that was) almost catatonic."

'As a result of that action his life was essentially destroyed ... His family has been tremendously embarrassed by this. He has suffered enough. In 1994 he got into a depressive state (that was) almost catatonic.'

WILLIAM YORK
DOYLE'S ATTORNEY

York said Doyle is now making \$300 a week working for a personnel agency and is trying to piece his life back together.

"He needs to get on with his life. He has suffered as one cannot imagine," York said while his client sat with his head bowed.

Stearns told Doyle he could address the court if he wished. The 52-year-old, gray-haired Doyle rose, placed his finger tips on the table and briefly thanked the

judge for considering his sentence.

"It's a very difficult day and I appreciate your consideration," he said in a quiet voice.

"I believe in Mr. Doyle's sincere apology," Stearns said several moments later and he sentenced Doyle to two years probation, 250 hours of community service and \$4800 restitution. Stearns said the restitution could be paid back in installments.

"I'm not looking to bankrupt the Doyle family," he said.

Doyle declined to comment as he was leaving the court room.

A life-long resident of Arlington, Doyle once held a prominent status in the town. He ran for Town Clerk in 1994 and sat on the Town Day Committee, Historic District Study Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Cable Advisory Committee as well as the Arlington Housing Authority Board. York said Doyle resigned from the board so he would not cause embarrassment when he was charged with bank fraud.

Doyle received his law degree from Suffolk University which he attended at night. He practiced law in Arlington center for 16 years handling cases involving business law, real estate law and computer law.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON



Members of the Boston Police bomb squad carry a bag containing a suspicious package dropped off at Concord Cooperative Bank in Arlington Center. The package was found to contain an alarm clock.

ADVOCATE PHOTO BY GAIL OSKIN

Package was a gift

BOMB, from page 1A.
off the area refusing to let anyone go within several hundred feet of the package.

As a precaution firefighters connected a hose to a fire hydrant and an ambulance and paramedics were standing by at the scene. Police officers directed Massachusetts Avenue traffic around the bank and cut off traffic down Court Street.

State police and the Boston Bomb Squad were notified and they arrived at about 5:50 p.m.

"Under the circumstances it was the best choice for police and fire to make with all available information," Del Gaizo said.

Shortly after the bomb squad arrived they determined it was only a digital clock. Regardless, they enclosed it in a secure case and took it back to Boston.

Pochini did not return several phone calls made to his office on Wednesday morning.

MOVIE LISTINGS

Arlington Capitol Theatre
204 Massachusetts Ave.
648-4340 (listings)

Jan. 5 through Jan. 11:

- CASINO (R) — 7:55
- THE CROSSING GUARD (R) — 5:10, 7:25 and 9:40
- GET SHORTY (R) — 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35 and 9:45
- ACE VENTURA: NATURE CALLS (PG13) — 11:40, 1:30, and 3:20
- GOLDENEYE (PG13) — 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:35
- THE BROTHERS MCMULLEN (R) — 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30
- PERSUASION (PG) — 5:05, 7:10 and 9:20
- HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) — 11:30, 1:35, 3:40, and 5:45
- IT TAKES TWO (PG) — 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30
- BABE (G) — 11:35, 1:25, and 3:15

Note: no shows start before 1 p.m. on weekdays.

Regent Theatre
7 Medford St.
643-1198 (listings)

Jan. 4 through Jan. 11:

- DIE HARD (R) — 7 p.m., Jan. 4
- DIE HARD 2 (R) — 9 p.m., Jan. 4
- MONTY PYTHON: HOLY GRAIL (PG) — 7 p.m., Jan. 6-9
- MONTY PYTHON: LIFE OF BRIAN (R) — 9 p.m., Jan. 6-9
- JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG) — 7 p.m., Jan. 10 and 11
- MANON OF SPRING (PG) — 9:15 p.m., Jan. 10 and 11

Listings are subject to change.

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David A. Leone

A class action suit usually involves a number of people who are faced with the same problem ("similarly situated") banding together to file a complaint. Filing suit en masse in this manner is most effective when the individual claims are too small and too expensive to try separately. In the past, class actions have been filed against large companies by collections of consumers who have been injured by hazardous products. While state attorney generals often bring this type of consumer class action suit, private attorneys may also initiate them on behalf of their clients. There are those, however, who believe that class actions should not be used in personal injury cases because individual plaintiffs stand to receive more money in damages if they were to bring their cases separately to juries. As in all legal matters, it is best to discuss your rights and options with an attorney.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON



After being ordered to evacuate the structurally-unsafe house, firefighters watch as water is poured into the smoldering home.

Fire guts Arlington home

FIRE, from page 1A.

"I don't know what that dog's name is, but if it survives it should be changed to 'Lucky,'" said Fire Chief Perry Cayton, who said he was happy to carry the dog out to Potter. She had also assumed that her Scottish terrier, named Agnus, had died in the blaze.

Interviewed on Tuesday night, Potter said veterinarians initially didn't expect the dog to survive, but now its condition is improving. She said her cat, also being treated at Angel Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, is expected to be released soon.

Potter said she was grateful for the support from the neighborhood and town.

"It's absolutely amazing. It hasn't sort of all sunk, but I have really appreciated what my friends and neighbors have done," she said. "I really can't tell you how much the support has meant to me and my family."

Potter, who lived on Bartlett Avenue for 30 years, has received support from several groups, most of which are not formally established but rather people with whom she interacts.

Checks made out to the "Jean Potter Fund" can be mailed to First Parish Church at 630 Massachusetts Ave. Neighborhood teenagers have already collected more than \$1,000 to help Potter replace her wardrobe. The Arlington Early Childhood Association, which Potter was once president of, is planning to replenish her professional library which was destroyed in the fire. People who walk their dogs in Menotomy Park are pooling money together to help defray the veterinarian costs. Suzanne Lijek said the members of the Arlington League of Women Voters planned to discuss how to help Potter at their Wednesday night meeting.

Maimone estimated the damage at \$350,000.

He said heavy smoke was billowing from every opening of the house when firefighters arrived at 10:55 a.m. Fire officials were concerned of a backdraft, a sudden surge in the fire, if the first floor windows were opened, Maimone said. So ladders brought firefighters to the roof, where they chopped and sawed holes to vent the heat and smoke. One firefighter smashed second-floor windows with quick jabs of a pole.

The three alarm fire brought 32 firefighters and 17 fire officers to the scene with nine fire engines and four ladder trucks from Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge, Medford and Winchester. Eventually, Maimone had the fire chief and Town Manager Donald Marquis notified. Both men, along with the police chief, came to the scene.

"We couldn't see what we were doing. The heat on the second floor was just too much," Maimone said, explaining that poor visibility was one of the greatest problems in fighting the fire. At times the smoke was so thick it hid the en-

tire house from the view of the 30 or so residents who watched.

After Maimone ordered all personnel out, firefighters doused the blaze from the ground and from ladder trucks.

The strong spray from the ground ruffled the shingles of the roof as flames began reaching toward the sky. With the television antenna attached to it, the chimney later toppled over and crashed through the floors below.

"That totally pulled everything else down with it," Maimone said. "The floors and ceiling were pretty weak before the chimney fell in, but that caused the total cave in."

Maimone said he believes the fire may have started in the chimney from smoldering that could have continued since there was a fire in the fire place on Christmas Day.

"We may never have a definite cause (of the fire.) We won't be able to have a good look until the debris is pulled out of the living room," he said.

A fire watch was posted for the night and firefighters had to return three times to extinguish buried debris that was smoldering.

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FSC and the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center in sponsoring a teacher recognition program.

For more information, contact the McAuliffe Center at (508) 626-4056; fax (508) 626-4059; or e-mail, christa@frs.mass.edu.

Victims' of Brattle Street fire recovering in hospital

The two elderly Arlington people who were pulled out of a burning house on Dec. 26 are still in the intensive care unit of Massachusetts General Hospital.

Mary White, 85, is listed in serious condition and Frank White, 85, was listed in fair condition.

White and Smith were pulled out of White's burning home on Brattle Street by three police officers who arrived at the scene before firefighters.

The officers who rescued the couple were treated at the Medical Center at Symmes for smoke inhalation. They have returned to duty.

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HURD REMEMBERED: Above, the Hurd's "Family 9" was well-known throughout New England, representing Arlington in many baseball tournaments. Shown here are, from left to right, Herbert C. Hurd and his sons, Arthur, Fred, Herbert S., Franklin Sr., John, Carlton, Walter, and Eugene. At right, Franklin W. Hurd Sr. is pictured with his sons, Frank Jr., left, and Edward J. Hurd earlier this year. The family marked Edward's swearing-in as the chairman of the Billerica Board of Selectmen by passing on a gavel made from original oak of the USS Constitution. The gavel was given to Frank Sr., who then passed it to Frank Jr. when he became chairman of the Arlington Board of Selectmen.



Hurd Sr. remembered as leader

HURD, from page 1A.
was well-governed by the men who were on the board during the years I served. The town was very fortunate in having Frank Hurd on there."

"He took a great deal of delight looking at the town and seeing how many of the decision they made back then affected the quality of life today," Frank Hurd Jr. said.

Prior to his life in public office, Hurd gained recognition during the 1930s as a member of his family's baseball team. His father and all eight of the Hurd brothers played, while his two sisters were the team's cheerleaders. The team, known as the "Family 9," won the town championship and represented Arlington in tournaments throughout New England. It is believed to have been the only family semi-professional baseball team in the country.

Over the years, Hurd devoted much time to the youth of Arlington. He was an Arlington Youth Association coach for the Yankees and Orioles and umpired baseball games for local Little League, high school and Arlington Baseball Association. In the 1940s and '50s, he was a linesman for Arlington High School football games. He also served as chairman for the annual football banquets hosted by the Arlington's Knights of Columbus.

He was a life member of the American Legion Post 39, the Arlington Knights of Columbus, the Arlington Lodge of Elks, and the Arlington Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Hurd was personnel adviser for the Boston Naval Shipyard until 1960, a land surveyor for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority negotiating property settlements in the taking of land for the turnpike's extension from Route 128 to Boston, and an auditor for the Massachusetts Department of Corporations and Taxation.

Hurd and four of his brothers served in the European Theater during World War II. His youngest brother, Walter, was killed in France. Hurd Field near Drake Village is named in Walter's honor.

Hurd was elected to the board of Park Commissioners in 1950. After serving two terms on the Board of Selectmen, he served on the Board of Cemetery Commissioners and the Award's Committee. He was an active member on the latter committee at the time of his death.

Hurd was the husband of the late Dorothy P. (Pelkey) Hurd. In addition to his sons, he is survived by his daughters-in-law, Joan E. of Arlington and Patricia A. of Billerica; his grandchildren, Edward J. Jr., Caroline E. and Catherine P. Hurd; and his sisters, Edna M. Tierney of Arlington and Eva M. Sugrue of Concord.

Funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. Agnes Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Arlington Association of Retarded Citizens, 36 Overlook Road, Arlington, MA 02174-1464.

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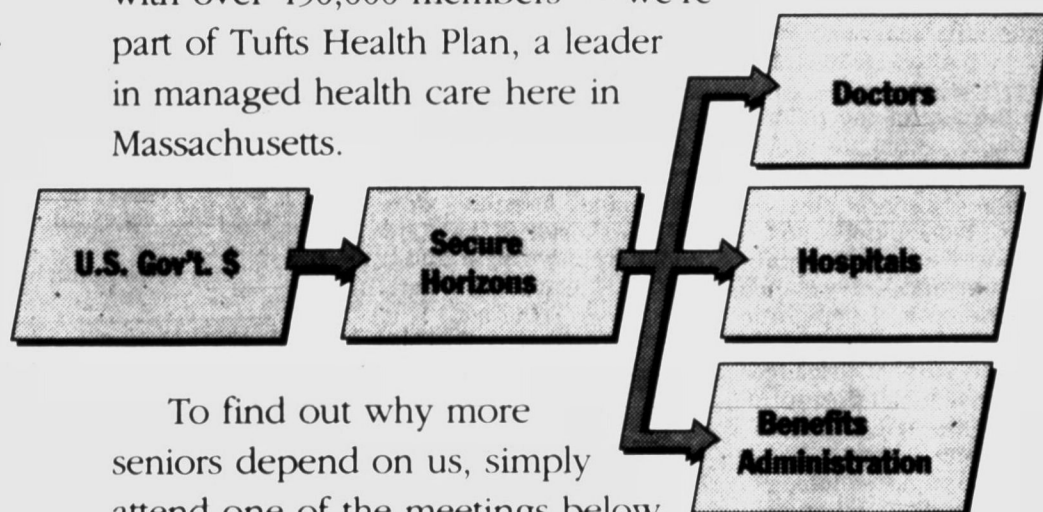
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Editorial

Family problems

The more we focus on the problems of the family, and the more we look to the courts for solutions, the more complicated the whole business becomes. A few examples out of recent news stories:

- A Connecticut "men's rights" group is planning a suit that would establish, they hope, the right of fathers to have a legal voice in whether the mothers of their expecting children should have an abortion. They reason that since unwed fathers can be liable for child support, they should be able to choose abortion or adoption, or shed their legal responsibilities.
- In Pennsylvania, a divorced father is challenging an order that he pay part of his daughter's college tuition. He reasons that no law would obligate him to put her through college if he was still married to her mother, so why should divorce matter?
- In Hawaii, observers expect the state's highest court to rule within months that same-sex marriages cannot be prohibited under that state's constitution. Gay activists predict Hawaii will become the new Niagara Falls, as gay and lesbian couples don their lies to tie the knot. Since marriages sanctioned in any state are legal in every state, those ties will bind in all jurisdictions.

Activist grandparents are pushing legislation that would give legal recognition to their rights to regular visits with their grandchildren.

State Rep. Barbara Gray, D-Framingham, has proposed printing a warning on marriage licenses about the dangers of domestic abuse. She is lead sponsor of another bill, which would require judges to consider evidence of spousal abuse as contrary to the best interests of the child when issuing custody or visitation rulings.

Both are well-intentioned and would, we expect, prove useful in some case in preventing or responding to family violence. But we worry about encouraging the use of domestic abuse accusations as ammunition by divorce lawyers in custody battles or visitations negotiations, a strategy some attorneys use now, whether or not serious violence is actually present.

Every marriage is a distinct combination of strengths and needs, demands and compromises, pain and bliss. Every divorce includes some combination of emancipation and loss, compromise and all-out war. For all our criticisms of government, you'd think we'd resist efforts to stick government's clumsy fingers into this most delicate and important relationship.

There are more serious problems facing American families, and where there's a problem there are always politicians promising to help. But politicians and lawyers aren't in the business of making marriages stronger or families more loving. Government's main product is litigation, not happy families.

Government must ultimately have a role in adjudicating some family disputes, but the best answers for troubled marriages and broken families lie elsewhere.

— Middlesex Community Newspapers

10 long months of Kerry, Weld

By Mark Leccesse

A New Year's prediction: by November you'll have seen, heard and read so much about John Kerry and Bill Weld that you'll be longing for the good old days of the O.J. Simpson trial.

In this U.S. Senate race, we're facing something that with little precedent in politics: a 10-month general election campaign.

Even in the age of the permanent campaign, when all politicians are campaigning all the time, a 10-month general election race is weird. But Weld has no serious challenger for the Republican nomination, and Kerry stands similarly alone in the Democratic field.

Compare the current presidential race. At least a half-dozen Republicans are still in it, and it will be March or later before a nominee emerges. (And not so long ago it used to take until June to determine the nominee.) Then comes the party convention in July, and the general election really doesn't even start in earnest until August or even Labor Day.

Massachusetts has party conventions too, usually in late spring, and the conventions decide which candidates from each party will appear on the September primary ballot.

So normally a U.S. campaign in Massachusetts has three distinct stages: the convention in May, the primary election campaign from May to September, and the general election campaign from September to the Tuesday following the

first Monday in November.

Not this time. We were still eating Thanksgiving leftovers when this general election started.

This poses some real problems for the two campaigns and their strategists — it's like some grim 64-furlong horse race. Tactics need to be different: go to the whip out of the gate, and your horse will fade, hold back midway through the race and you may give up a lead you'll never get back.

The governor has proposed the two candidates debate at least six times, and possibly more, but there's a danger in that too — Kerry and Weld will run into trouble with what economists call "marginal utility." (Or that's what they called it when I took Econ. 101, anyway.)

The theory of marginal utility holds that if you're terribly thirsty, you'll pay a lot of money for a glass of water. For a second glass of water, you won't be willing to pay quite as much — your thirst is somewhat quenched. And you probably won't want to pay a dime for the 20th glass of water.

How much attention will media-saturated voters pay to, say, the sixth Weld-Kerry debate?

There are two ways, at that point, to grab people's attention. Make a fool of yourself in the debate, or attack your opponent. "Go negative," as they say in politics.

That, in fact, is probably one of the key strategic questions of the odd, 10-month campaign: When to go negative? The negative stuff is

LECCESSE, see page 9A.



DAVE GRANLUND © MIDDLESEX NEWS

Personal notes and elfin envelopes

In January we see the world with new-washed eyes, catch mistakes that escaped us before, and resolve to do better.

Like anyone else, I face '96 with my own list of intentions and regrets.

Take that last category first. Since I can't bear to let anyone fall out of my life, I send a million Christmas cards. This year, to keep the million straight, I decided to put my Rolodex on disk.

That took three days.

From there it was a short step to deciding I should let the computer generate labels, thus saving me from handwriting all the addresses — 232 of them, to be exact.

That took three minutes.

But THEN, worried about the possible coldness of a card with a printed label, I went and hand-decorated every envelope with a custom design.

That took three weeks.

From Dec. 5 on, every kid who came to our house got handed markers and colored pencils. Like Dark Age monks, 10, 12, maybe 15 young people helped illuminate the 232 pages of this so-called manuscript.

They drew Santa hats and snow-

men and delicate strings of bulbs snaking into tiny electrical socks-

ets, angels and stained-glass windows and carolers, mouths open in perfect ovals; a plate of cookies next to a steaming mug of cocoa and a tiny repairman on his back under a broken sleigh. "Peas on earth" in fancy script, and a perfectly-rendered bottle labeled "Absolute Xmas." Apologies to the friends who got something resembling puzzle pieces of a disembodied Santa arranged prettily into a kind of Pennsylvania hex design, as well as to the one whose whole envelope arrived covered with what looks to be a Christmas tree, lying torpedo-like on its side, tip lit like a fuse and ready to roar.

It took a lot of work to prepare all these envelopes, not to mention supervising my many elves. But I got them all in the mail just four days before New Year's — for me a personal best. And do I regret the thousand hours they took?

I know I don't regret the card that went inside them, because this year I decided to forego the long xeroxed note filled with a lot of blah-blah. Instead, I penned a short phrase over each of the fol-

LIFE AND ALL THAT

TERRY MAROTTA



lowing photos:

- One, taken from the back, of our first girl's waist-length-had-it-since-she-was-ten hair, snapped within minutes of her chopping it to the ears.
- One of our second girl, smiling at someone off-camera, both hands on the shoulders of our boy, dressed, wings and all, like a fairy, five o'clock shadow chalked on his small face and a spiked dog collar round his skinny neck.
- One of a baby cat so small her whole palm-sized self fits within

the frame of a pair of sunglasses.

- One of another creature, who, taken suddenly by sleep, as babies often are, hangs boneless off the edge of a chair, paws thrown forward, head down.
- And one of us time-battered parents, the dad wearing the 15 pounds he shed two months later, and the mom wearing an interesting dress, bought at BJ's for \$9.95, with a texture very much like baby wipes.

It was a fast greeting card to produce — a mighty slow one to prepare for mailing, what with all the drawing and coloring on every envelope.

And I'm sorry for much that I've done in a year's time: sorry I fall asleep while paying the bills, my signature trailing off the edge of the check like a coronary victim's; sorry I forget to cap my pocketed pens, so that all my clothes tell seeping tales of inky hemorrhage; sorry I once turned the water on in the bathroom, forgot, and went grocery shopping.

But am I sorry I took ten minutes apiece thinking about all 232 people to whom I sent a card this season? Far from it. It's the best way I've begun a new year in a long time.

Who had the health code violation?

To the editor:

After reading an article in the Boston Globe (NorthWest Weekly), I called the Arlington Board of Health. I wanted to know which food places were closed or cited, that were mentioned but not named in the Boston Globe article.

At first, the board head wasn't going to tell me, but finally he did. He would only tell me two of the three:

1. Tiki-In, 165 Mass. Ave., Arlington.
2. Chinese Gourmet, 194 Mass. Ave., Arlington.
3. All he said is that it is in Arlington Heights.

The standard way of doing things is to list the (code) violations in the local newspaper.

It makes it look bad for the eating places that were not cited.

All the other towns and cities list weekly the eating places that were cited. Arlington should not be different. It's none of the town manager's or the Chamber of Commerce's business to get involved.

I'm sure they and nobody else would buy food at a place that was cited.

Mei Samoorian
Mass. Ave.

More opinions on coming elections

To the editor:

When I wrote to the Advocate regarding the Democratic Town Committee, I was not certain whether Rep. Jim Marzilli had withdrawn his name from the bal-

lot. Shortly thereafter, I learned from the office of the Secretary of State that he had.

I would like to remind those who will be voting for the Democratic Town Committee that they are not obliged to vote for everyone or anyone on the "Lyons slate." Please take the little extra time which will be required to write in the names of the people you deem the best possible choices.

Of all the people listed in the Advocate who were in the running at one time, Marzilli is the cream of the crop. I highly recommend that you write him in on your ballot.

It may be that you desire to vote for half of the Lyons slate and to write in the rest of your candidates. You will save time by composing a list of those for whom you wish to vote and bringing that list with you to the polls.

A recent letter to the Advocate recommended to you Mr. George Laite of the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee. He does not represent that committee in his run for the Arlington Democratic Town Committee. Sadly, he has actually hurt the image of the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee by his actions and comments regarding the present Democratic Town Committee. And his "slogan" about "bringing the Democratic party back to the people" is ludicrous and an insult to the intelligence of Arlingtonians.

In addition, Laite nearly created some ill feelings toward Sen. Robert Havern within the ranks of voters with whom I associate because Laite is sometimes described as

an aide to Havern. Havern, like the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee, has no control over any nonsense spouted by Laite while he is pursuing his own interests. I feel fortunate that I know Havern's office well and can state unequivocally that Laite's modus operandi is totally unrelated to Havern and his other staff members, who include Tom Banks.

The letter writer to the Advocate, Karen Bergin, who wishes that Laite could do for the rest of the town what he has done for East Arlington, has spent too little time in the rest of the town. Heavens! God forbid that big, bad McDonald's might want to contribute to our tax base by moving in elsewhere in Arlington! They might even have the gall to hire some Arlington teens or contribute to scholarships for us. This would surely be a calamity of major proportions.

Anthony Bernacchi
Mass. Avenue

Toys for Tots drive

To the editor:

Arlex Yellow Cab Association, a corporate sponsor of the Marines' Toys for Tots drive, would like to thank our patrons, both corporate and personal customers, fellow businesses and local and state officials for their help in making our toy drive so successful.

We received some outstanding assistance from several elected officials. Lt. Gov. A. Paul Celluci met with the Yellow Cab Santa to do-

nate five toys to benefit the Marines' Toys for Tots drive for the metro Boston area. Middlesex County Sheriff Brad Bailey, and Sen. Charles Shannon met with the Yellow Cab Santa to make several donations.

The Arlex Yellow Cab Association joined the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program to help with this year's dramatic toy shortage. Toys collected by our drivers in Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Medford and Winchester went to benefit the Marines' Toys for Tots program. Toys collected after the Marines' cutoff date went to area adopt-a-family programs and several church programs. A total of 683 toys went to the Toys for Tots, and 143 to the other two local programs.

The Toy drive was greatly helped by the Arlington Senior Center, the Lexington Selectmen, the Medford City Council and City Clerk, Century 21, CVS, Papa Gino's, One Stop Cleaners, teacher Lisa MacDonald, and Patsy Cramer, Ellen Digby and hundreds of great citizens who stepped forward to help needy children in this holiday season.

Next year we hope to expand and continue our yellow cab Santa program, and we'll be asking these great people to step forward again, hopefully joined by even more great people.

Our Yellow Cab Santas were Bill (Chief Santa) Pelton, Paul Archambeau, Tom Ouellette, Big Daddy Joe Santa. These people stepped forward and helped these children. That type of team spirit is what makes Yellow Cab a great team to work with.

Ron Bonney
President, Arlex Yellow Cab

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

Weld, Kerry camps will turn to negativity

LECCESSE, from page 8A.

coming — both camps have stockpiled ammo and are keeping their powder dry — and it's coming for the simplest of reasons.

It doesn't work for 10 months, though. So at some point this year you'll see Weld or Kerry start to attack, and you'll know the candidate is either afraid of falling too

far behind, or is trying to open up a lead. By Labor Day, the "traditional" start of a general election, both candidates will be using negative campaigning heavily.

Hey, it worked for Johnnie Cochran.

(Mark Lecesse is the Statehouse bureau chief for Community Newspaper Company, the parent company of The Arlington Advocate.)

streets and protect children from unnecessary and tragic accidents," said Havern.

Paulsen schedules office hours at Fox

Rep. Anne M. Paulsen will hold office hours in East Arlington on Friday, Jan. 5, at 1 p.m. at the Fox Library at the corner of Cleveland Street and Mass. Ave. For those who work during the day, Paulsen will also meet with constituents at the Fox Library on Wednesday, Jan. 17, from 7 to 8 p.m.

All East Arlington residents are welcome to come to meet Paulsen, to let her know about concerns they have, or to ask for help with legislation or in dealing with state agencies.

Paulsen can now be reached at a new E-mail address at the State House: RepAnnePaulsen@House.state.ma.us

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. The 1995 legislative session ends at midnight Jan. 2. In the past, the last few days of the session have been busy ones with legislators rushing to get bills approved before all pending legislation dies at the stroke of midnight. This year, however, the legislature adopted new rules allowing pending bills to be carried over into the second year of a biennial session on the same status from the end of the first year.

This week, Beacon Hill Roll Call begins a series of reports on legislation approved by both branches on roll call votes in 1995 and signed into law by Gov. Weld or passed over his veto. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. The 1996 session begins Jan. 3.

WELFARE REFORM (H 1500) — House 133-21, Senate 31-3, approved and Governor Weld signed the bill making major changes in the state's welfare system beginning in November. Provisions include requiring some 18,000 recipients with only school-aged children to find a job within 60 days or perform 20 hours per week of community service; a two-year limit on benefits for able-bodied recipients; a 2.75 percent cut in benefits; and a ban on additional welfare benefits for welfare mothers who have additional children.

A Yes vote is for the welfare reform bill. A No vote is against the welfare reform bill.

Rep. Jim Marzilli voted no.
Rep. Anne M. Paulsen voted no.
Sen. Robert Havern voted yes.

FISCAL '96 BUDGET (H 5100) — House 149-3, Senate 38-0, approved and Gov. Weld signed a \$16.8 billion fiscal 1996 state budget after he vetoed several sections. Provisions include \$232 million in new education aid; \$51 million in new lottery aid to communities; and elimination of all lottery advertising except for \$400,000 for in-store promotions. (A Yes vote is for the \$16.8 billion budget. A No vote is against the budget.)

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

TED WILLIAMS TUNNEL (H 5350) — House 122-17, Senate 28-6, approved and Gov. Weld signed a bill selling Boston's new Ted Williams Tunnel to the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority for at least \$100 million and perhaps more in the future. The tunnel opened a few weeks ago for commercial vehicles

only. Provisions include giving the Authority the power to set tolls; freezing tolls for non-commercial vehicles on the turnpike, Tobin Bridge and Sumner and Callahan tunnels until December 1996; and allowing tolls for taxis and other commercial vehicles using the Sumner and Callahan tunnels to be raised to an amount equal to the new toll charged for commercial vehicles using the Ted Williams Tunnel. The Williams Tunnel toll is currently \$2. (A Yes vote is for the bill. A No vote is against the bill.)

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

CHINA (H 4909) — House 123-26, Senate 36-0, overrode Weld's veto and approved a bill mandating that private companies which receive state economic development funds sign a statement agreeing to comply with a code or standards to be drafted by the Weld administration if they do business in or with China. The code includes mandates that companies seek to insure employment policies which do not discriminate based on sex, religion or ethnic background.

A Yes vote is for the bill requiring companies to comply with a code of standards. A No vote is against the bill.

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern did not vote.

HIKE MINIMUM WAGE (H 5153) — House 127-26, Senate 36-1, overrode Weld's veto and approved a bill increasing the minimum wage from \$4.25 per hour to \$4.75 per hour on Jan. 1, 1996, and to \$5.25 a year later.

A Yes vote is for the hike. A No vote is against the hike.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



Sen. Havern



Rep. Marzilli



Rep. Paulsen

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

HIGHER ED (H 5666) — House 152-0, Senate 39-0, approved and Gov. Weld signed a \$618 million bond bill for new construction and renovations to the state's public colleges and universities.

A Yes vote is for the bill.

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES (S 2049) — House 151-0, Senate 37-0, approved and Gov. Weld signed a bill allowing businesses in the state to form as "limited liability corporations" and "limited liability partnerships."

These companies, allowed in 47 other states, are unincorporated businesses which combine the limited liability of a corporation with the favorable tax treatment given to partnerships.

A Yes vote is for the bill.

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

Coming Up On Beacon Hill

STATUS OF GIRLS (H 5712) — The Human Services Committee is considering a proposal establishing a six-member special commission to study the problem of unequal treatment of girls in the state. The proposal allows the commission to consult with persons knowledgeable in the fields of education and child and adolescent health. Sponsored by Rep. Charles Flaherty (D-Cambridge) and Rep. Sally Kerans

(D-Danvers).

LOSING SCRATCH TICKETS (H 5715) — The Government Regulations Committee is looking at a bill directing the State Lottery to conduct a lottery awarding prizes for losing scratch tickets. The measure provides that all locations selling scratch tickets maintain containers on their premises for the deposit of losing scratch tickets. Sponsored by Rep. Anthony Mandile (D-Waltham) and Rep. David Gately (Unenrolled-Waltham).

SCHOOL DRESS CODE (H 5714) — The Education Committee is considering legislation allowing local school committees to exempt their schools from the current state law prohibiting school officials from establishing dress and appearance codes for students. Current law prohibits officials from abridging the rights of students' dress and appearance except if the officials determine that the student is violating reasonable standards of health, safety and cleanliness. Sponsored by Rep. John Klimm (D-Barnstable).

PRISON OVERCROWDING (No number yet) — A bill designed to prevent or make it more difficult for judges to order prisoners released early because of overcrowding has been filed in the House. The proposal requires that before a prisoner is released early because of overcrowding, a judge must make a specific finding that overcrowding is primarily responsible for depriving the prisoner of his constitutional right and that no other remedy will restore the right. Sponsored by Rep. Edward Teague (R-Yarmouth).

HOW LONG WAS THIS WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of each week's legislative session. During the week of Dec. 25 to 29, the House met for a total of two hours and 17 minutes while the Senate met for a total of two hours and 40 minutes.

Monday, Dec. 25 — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION.

Tuesday, Dec. 26 — HOUSE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at 12:01 p.m. SENATE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 27 — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION.

Thursday, Dec. 28 — HOUSE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at 12:16 p.m. SENATE convened at 11:05 a.m.; adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 29 — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

New auto insurance rates please some But others are demanding greater decreases in state's new rates

By Miriam L. Schulte
MCN BUSINESS WRITER

BOSTON — Last week's announcement that 1996 auto insurance rates would decline by 4.5 percent in Massachusetts drew mixed reactions from lawmakers, consumer advocates and independent insurance agents — some who said the drop isn't steep enough.

"I don't think they're going down enough," said Frank Mancini, executive vice president of the Professional Independent Insurance Agents of Massachusetts. "We think they should be going down a lot more."

Earlier this month the PIIAM called for a 10 percent across-the-board rate cut and an end to special group discounts. In a prepared statement, the organization characterized the group discounts, some as high as 10 percent, as discriminatory.

"If certain companies can offer 10 percent discounts to random groups, the rates must be about 10 percent too high," wrote PIIAM president Phil Chesley. "All consumers should get a 10 percent relief from rates."

The PIIAM estimates there are close to 1,000 insurance groups ap-

proved by the state, including employees of some large companies and American Automobile Association members.

"Logically you could say we'd almost be in favor of an increase," said Daniel J. Foley, the trade organization's director of governmental affairs and general counsel. "Obviously for higher premiums an agent is going to get a higher commission. But our members are on the front line every day selling insurance and we feel what's fair is fair. We're looking out for the best interests of the consumer. If some of these groups can deviate as much as 10 percent, everyone should get a 10 percent decrease."

Some legislators have joined in the call for a 10 percent across-the-board cut. Others are trying to regulate group insurance discount plans so that poorer consumers are not forced to pay higher rates than group members. Rep. Louis Kafka, D-Sharon, has filed a bill that would define groups so that insurance companies could no longer sell exclusively to groups of consumers. Hearings on the bill are anticipated soon.

And still other legislators say they see the 4.5 percent decrease in rates as a step toward higher re-

ductions for all consumers.

"Anytime insurance rates are going down that's good news," said Sen. Cheryl Jacques, D-Needham. "We always want to encourage more but I think we're off to a good start and maybe next year will be better."

"This is not subject to legislative action but I'm thrilled the pressure is such and economy is such that the rates are going down," Jacques said. "I would love to see the commissioner reduce them even more."

The rate decrease announced last week will reduce the average insurance bill by \$40 and bring the statewide average insurance cost to about \$873. It is the first time since the start of the decade that the actual insurance rates paid by consumers have fallen since a similar decrease from 1989 to 1990, when consumers were paying an average of \$653 a year.

The new automobile insurance rate, set by the state's insurance commission, is technically the second decrease in a as many years. Rates set by the commission for 1995 were nearly \$60 less than the previous year. But once adjusted, consumers actually ended up paying about \$25 more than in 1994.

While not exactly pleased with

the rate cut, Automobile Insurers Bureau president Dan Johnston said the cut is "within the reasonable bounds of our expectations."

But some consumer groups insist the automobile insurance industry in Massachusetts is making an inordinate amount of profit at the expense of the consumer.

According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Massachusetts auto insurers had an average operating profit of 12.6 percent in 1994, well above the national average of 7.5 percent.

"The bottom line is this — 1994 put Massachusetts as the second most profitable auto insurance state in the country," said Jason Adkin, director of the Cambridge-based Center for Insurance Research. "There's a lot of fat in our system, including the fact that we have the nations highest distribution costs because we have so many agents."

One citizen activist, John Hayes of Belmont, claims 70 percent of private passenger auto insurance in Massachusetts is sold by agents compared to a national average of 30 percent.

Community Newspapers Corp. statehouse reporter Leslie Miller contributed to this report.



Linda Nadeau of Arlington is given a gift-filled Christmas stocking as winner of a Post Office giveaway.

Post Office winner picked

Linda Nadeau of Arlington is the contest winner of the "Mail Early and Win" giant gift-filled Christmas stocking.

Nadeau, a Somerville teacher, and her husband, Gerry, went to the Arlington Heights Post Office on Dec. 7 to mail their cards early to be eligible for the contest, which ended Dec. 9.

On Dec. 23, Daniel McNamara, manager of the Arlington Post Office, and Steve Paradis,

Linda and Gerry Nadeau's letter carrier, presented the giant stocking to the Nadeaus.

"This is the second best gift from the Arlington Post Office, the first is my outstanding letter carrier," Nadeau said.

The giant stocking, which Nadeau said, "contained a bundle of presents" and "exceeded my greatest expectations," is now hanging on the front door of their home.

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ABOUT ARLINGTON PEOPLE

Don't Throw Me Away I'm Recyclable!

Barranco receives 'Wings of Gold'

Marine 1st Lt. John B. Barranco, son of John and Charlene Barranco of Arlington, was recently designated a naval aviator.

Barranco was presented with the coveted "Wings of Gold" which marked the culmination of months of flight training with Marine Aviation Training Support Group, Naval Technical Training Center, Corry Station, Pensacola, Fla.

Training curriculum included basic studies in engineering and navigation, training flights in simulators, aircraft familiarizations, basic and advanced instrument training, extended navigation flights, and landings and takeoffs

aboard an aircraft carrier. Barranco, a 1989 graduate of Arlington High School joined the Marine Corps in May 1995. He is a graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., with a bachelor of science degree.

Arlingtonian featured in college musical

Arlington resident Erin Maguire was featured in the Ithaca College Theatre production of the musical "Quilters," performed Dec. 7 through 10 at the Clarke Theatre, Dillingham Center for the Performing Arts.

Maguire is majoring in musical theater at the school for humanities and sciences. A freshman, this

is her first production at the college. She is a graduate of Arlington High School.

Brooks makes honor roll at Lawrence

Lawrence Academy student Jessica Brooks, a sophomore from Arlington, earned academic honors this fall. Students with a grade point average of 83.5 or above and no grade below B- are listed on the honor roll.

Massaro earns B.S. criminology degree

David Domenic Massaro, a 1992 graduate of Arlington Catholic High School, and son of Sid and Jacqueline Massaro, graduated from the University of Tampa in December with a bachelor of science degree in criminology.

"I touch the future, I teach."

Christa Corrigan McAuliffe

Ten years ago, the nation recognized teachers by including a teacher in space — Christa Corrigan McAuliffe — a Framingham native, Framingham State College graduate, and most importantly a teacher.

As the nation prepares to pause and remember the Challenger disaster Framingham State College, the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center and Community Newspaper Company encourage you to commemorate Christa's spirit and help our effort to recognize those teachers who have made a difference in the lives of others.



"Christa's Teachers" A PROGRAM TO HONOR THE BEST OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

"Christa's Teachers" ... did you have one?

Was there a special teacher in your life? Someone who made a real difference for you? Now you can recognize that special teacher in your life by nominating him or her as a "Christa's Teacher." Your nomination will be put on permanent display, along with others, in a special honor roll at the McAuliffe Center at Framingham State College. And, for a \$50 donation to the Center, we will-in your name- send your teacher (or his/her school system, if that person is deceased) a handsome three inch-burnished bronze medallion personalized with your teacher's name. Imagine how proud that teacher will be, and you will be, as well! Send us your nomination, along with the order form and your donation to the Center. The medallion will be sent to your teacher, in your name.

YES, I want to help restore respect for America's teachers by nominating one of my teachers as one of "Christa's Teachers." This teacher made a significant contribution to the person I am today.

Teacher's Name _____
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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my contribution of:
☐ \$50 for the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Memorial Medallion
Please make checks payable to: The Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center
☐ I am not nominating a teacher, I'd like to make a donation of (amount) \$ _____
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor.

My Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone (_____) _____ Ext. _____

☐ Send to me at the above address. I will present to my teacher/school.
☐ Send directly to teacher in my name.
☐ I am not making a donation, but I am nominating the teacher named above.

Please return this form with your written teacher nomination, and your donation to:

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CLUB NEWS

Women's investment club starting soon

The Arlington Women's Investment Club is forming for education and profit. Interested parties may call 646-6731. First meeting is Sunday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

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